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A LINK WITH MAGELLAN

Being a Chart of the East Indies, C. 1522

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* Atlas 900.3.1522

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MAGELLAN

Being a Chart of the
East Indies, C. 1522

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Being a Chart of the
East Indies, C. 1522

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PRIVATELY PRINTED
1929

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Boies Penrose
June 20 1929
«Atlas 900.3.1522

THAT this chart was the work of one of the survivors of Magellan's ill-fated, but epoch-making, expedition is not merely possible, but extremely probable, especially since the question of its origin is relatively simple. It is clearly of Spanish and not Portuguese manufacture, as is evident by the fact that the language on the back and on Cebu is Spanish; besides which the mention that Magellan had been slain would probably not have occurred on a Portuguese chart.

Since the chart is of Spanish origin, then it must have been made by a member of one of the three Spanish trans-Pacific voyages of the first half of the Sixteenth Century. Of the voyages, Magellan's was, of course, the first, to be followed in 1528 by Alvaro de Saavedra. de Saavedra crossed by way of the Sandwich or Hawaiian Islands, where two of his vessels were wrecked.* From there he steered WSW. and

* *The survivors, among them the captain of one of the ships and his sister, are said to have intermarried with the natives, and given rise to the traces of Spanish customs still existant on the islands.*

came to New Guinea, just below the Equator, so that he never once approached any of the Philippine group or Borneo. Hence any chart made by one of his men would not have given the Philippines or Borneo in such detail, but would have drawn much more of New Guinea and the islands to the North and Northeast.

The other crossing was that of Ruy Lopez de Villalobos, in 1542. His landfall was on Luzon, which he coasted and explored so extensively that any resultant chart would have given the northern Philippines with considerable detail and probably with accuracy.

Issue might be taken that the word "Papuaas" occurs, and since New Guinea was not visited until 1526 by the Portuguese de Meneses, or 1528 by de Saavedra, the chart could not be earlier than 1528. To this objection it may be said that there is little doubt but that de Abreu sighted Papua in 1511, and even if he did not land, the name was probably learned from native information in Ceram or the Moluccas. The

very uncertain cartography and absence of coast line will substantiate this point.

This map also serves to give a good idea of the extent of Portuguese geography at this period. Of the romance of their great discoveries, much has been written which need not concern us here; suffice to say, every voyage from the time of Prince Henry burst new frontiers and opened new vistas. Nine years after Bartholomew Diaz had reached the Cape of Good Hope in 1488, Vasco da Gama landed at Calicut, on the Malabar coast, thus making the first great step toward the Portuguese monopoly in the Indies, which lasted a century. Cochin (Madras) was occupied in 1502–3, and Bengal was coasted. Six years later North Sumatra was discovered and explored by Diego Lopes de Segueira, while in 1511 Alphonso d'Albuquerque occupied Malacca. The next year saw Antonio de Abreu's voyage of exploration to Lava, Madura, Sumbawa, Amboyna, and Ternate. After visiting Ceram he returned

by the Celebes and the south coast of Borneo. His second-in-command, Francisco Serrão, was shipwrecked and is said to have made his way by native boat to Mindanao; he was, however, found by del Cano at Ternate in 1521. After a second voyage to the Moluccas in 1514, the Portuguese went there constantly, as well they might, for it was from these islands that the wondrous spices, so sought after in Renaissance Europe, were produced. The Chinese coast was explored and Canton visited in 1517.

Such was the situation when, in 1519, Charles V commissioned Magellan to find a trade route to the Spice Islands (Moluccas) by way of the western hemisphere. By virtue of the decree of Pope Alexander VI (Borgia) and the Treaty of Tordesillas, Spanish enterprise was limited to America,* and Spaniards found that they could not participate in the extremely profitable trade of the East Indies. It was,

** By the treaty to all lands west of a line approximately 50° W., the Portuguese were awarded all new discoveries east of this line.*

nevertheless, believed that, by using a western route to the East, the Spaniards would be within the terms of both decree and treaty, and they would profit greatly by the trade. Hence Magellan's voyage was not for the empty but glorious purpose of making the first circumnavigation—it was rather to evade the spirit of the decree, while observing the letter, and to establish Spanish enterprise in the East.

Magellan was of Portuguese birth and had spent the better years of his life in Portuguese service. From 1505 until 1512 he had served in the East, being thrice wounded. He was at the taking of Malacca in 1511, and was with de Abreu's squadron on its voyage to discovery. In 1513 he served in Morocco, and although wounded at the taking of Azamor, he was accused of trading with the Moors, and was discharged from his country's employment by King Manuel in 1514. Thereupon he formally renounced his nationality and repaired to Valladolid to see Charles V.

He now set about devising the plan of reaching the Indies from the West, and so dealing Portugal a blow under which she should reel. In this he was helped by other Portuguese exiles, who longed to get avenged at their native land. One was his father-in-law, Diego Barbosa, a man of great influence at Seville, while another was the astronomer Ruy Faleiro. In this way he easily gained the ear of Charles and that of his minister, Rodriguez de Fonseca, Bishop of Burgos.

On September 20, 1519, he left Spain with a well-armed fleet of five vessels. Brazil was sighted in slightly over two months, and for four months he searched for a passage to the Pacific. Winter quarters were established at Port Julian, 49° 20′ South. These were not left until late August, 1520, and after almost two months of hunting the passage was at last found (October 21). Although one vessel deserted, by November 28th the fleet was through and had started its interminable passage of the Pacific. In

ninety-eight days only two islands were seen—"St. Paul's," probably Puka Puka in the Tuamotu Archipelago, on January 24, 1521, and "Shark Island," possibly Flint Island, in the Manihiki group, February 3d. It was not until March 6th that the Ladrones (possibly Guam) were sighted—so called by Magellan because of the untrustworthy nature of their inhabitants. Ten days later Magellan reached the Philippines, his landfall being on the southern point of Samar. Magellan thereupon named the islands after St. Lazarus. Cebu was reached on April 7th. Here Magellan converted the people to Christianity, and made an unfortunate alliance with the king, who sought to make Magellan fight his battles. It was thus that Magellan found himself taking part in the futile expedition against the small island of Mactan, to the East of Cebu, where he met his death on April 27th.

Now the command devolved upon Sebastian del Cano, who very wisely refused to be made the tool of any more intrigues, and who ordered

the fleet to sea again, after burning one of the vessels. Palawan was coasted in June, North Borneo was explored in July, then sailing through the Sulu Archipelago, touching at Mindanao and the northeast end of the Celebes, the Moluccas were reached on November 6th.

After taking in a cargo of cloves, del Cano started home on December 21, 1521, in the Vittoria, the other ship, the Trinidad, remaining, due to its leaky condition. Del Cano steered South from Tidor to Ceram and thence to Timor. From Timor they struck straight across to the Cape of Good Hope, avoiding the straits of Malacca, lest they fall in with the Portuguese. This was rounded in April and Seville was reached the following August, 1522.

Richard Eden's translation* of Peter Martyr's version of Pigafetta's narrative thus describes the more important events of the passage through the Indies:

* *Printed by Richard Jugge, London, 1577. S. T. C. 649.*

Les Reyes Godos y Naturales de España

Indiarum

"When they had thus sayled LXX leagues of this voyage in the XII degree above the Equinoctiall, and CXLVI degrees of longitude (as I have sayde) the syxt day of March they discovered a little Ilande towarde the northwest, and two other toward the southwest; but the one was hygher and bygger than the other. In the byggest of these, the generall captayne woulde have rested hym selfe a whyle, but he coulde not, by reason the people of these Ilandes resorted continually to the shyppes with theyr Canoas, and stole nowe one thing and nowe an other, in suche sorte that our men coulde take no rest. . . . . The Captayne named these Ilandes *Insulæ Latronum*, that is, the Ilandes of theeves. . . . .

"The tenth daye of Marche, in the yeere 1521, they wente alande uppon a litle Ilande named Zamal, XXX leagues dystant from the Ilande of Theeves. . . .

"The XVIII daye of Marche, they sawe a boate with nyne men commyng towarde them, shewyng them selves joyfull and

rejoysyng of theyr commyng. . . . This Ilande where they founde this humane and gentle people, is called Zuluan,[1] and is not very bygge. About this Ilande they founde many other Ilandes, and therefore named this sea *Archipelago di San Lazaro*, that is, the great sea of Saint Lazarus, being tenne degrees above the Equinoctiall towarde our Pole, and CLXI from the place from whence they departed. . . .

"The XXVIII daye of Marche, they came to the Ilande of *Buthuan*,[2] where they were honorably entertayned of the Kyng, and the Prynce his sonne. . . .

"Departing from thence, they came to the Ilandes of *Zeilon*, *Zubut*,[3] *Messana*,[4] and *Calaghan*,[5] by the conduct of certayne Pilots of the sayde kynges. Of these, *Zubut* is the best, and hath the trade of best trafique. In the Ilande of *Messana* they found Dogges, Cattes, Hogges, Hennes, Goates. . . . They remayned in this Ilande for the space

[1] *Suluan.*
[2] *Dinagat* (*?*).
[3] *Cebu.*
[4] *Maasin.*
[5] *Camiguin.*

of eyght dayes, and then directed their viage toward the Northwest, and passed betweene these fyve Ilandes, *Zeilon*, *Bohol*, *Canghu*, *Barbai*, and *Catighan*. In this Iland of *Catighan* are certayne great Battes, as bygge as eagles, of whiche they tooke one; they are good to be eaten, and of taste much lyke a Henne. . . .

"The seventh day of Apryll, about noone, they entred into the port of Zubut. And passing by many villages and habitations in trees, they came to the citie."

Hereupon the narrative goes into great detail about the conversion of the king and subjects to Christianity, of the unfortunate war with the neighboring king of Mactan, in which Magellan was involved, and of his death in the skirmish of April 27th. After that the narrative continues:

"Certaine dayes before the captaines death they had knowledge of the Ilandes of *Molucca*, whiche they chiefly sought. Departyng therefore from the Ilande of *Mathan*, they sayled farre, and came to the

Cape of an other Ilande named *Bohol*. . . . Thus directyng theyr course towarde southwest, they came to an other Ilande named *Paviloghon*,[1] where they founde blacke men, lyke unto the Sarasins. Shortly after, they arryved at an other great Ilande. . . . It is named *Chippit*,[2] and is VIII degrees above the Equinoctiall lyne towarde our pole, and in longitude from the place from whence they just departed 170 degrees, and about 50 leagues from *Zubut*.

"Departyng from hence, they came to an other Ilande, named *Caghaian*,[3] beyng 40 leagues from *Chippit*, as they sayled betweene the Weste and Southwest. This Ilande is very great, and in maner unhabited. The people are Moores, and were banished out of the Ilande of *Burnei*, which some call *Porne*.

"From this Ilande about XXV leagues betweene the Weste and Northweste, they founde a marveylous fruitfull Ilande named *Pulaoan*,[4] beyng towarde one pole above the

[1] *Negros*.
[2] *N. W. Mindanao*.
[3] *Cagayan*.
[4] *Palawan*.

Equinoctiall niene degrees and a thirde parte, and CLXXIX degrees and a thirde part in longitude from the place of their departyng.

"From this Ilande X leagues towarde the Southwest, they sawe an other Ilande,[1] whiche seemed to them sometymes to mount as they sayled by the coastes thereof. As they were entering into the port, there arose a boysterous and dark tempest, which ceassed assoone as the fyres of the three saintes (whereof we have spoken before) appeared upon the cables. From the beginning of this Iland to the porte, are fyve leagues. This Ilande is great and ryche, and the chiefe citie thereof conteyneth XXV thousande houses. . . .

"Departyng from *Burnei*, they came to an Ilande called *Cimbulon*, beyng VIII degrees above the Equinoctiall lyne. Heere they remayned XL dayes, to calke theyr shyppes, and furnysh them with freshe water and fuell, . . .

"Departyng from hence, they directed

[1] *Borneo.*

theyr course by the West quarter towarde the Southeast, to fynde the Ilandes of Molucca, and sayled not farre from certayne mountaynes, where they found the sea full of great weedes and hearbes.

"From hence, they came to the Ilandes of *Zolo*[1] and *Taghima*, in the which are found pearles of exceedyng bygnesse.

"Folowyng theyr course towarde the Northeast, they came to a great citie named *Mangdando*,[2] lying above the Ilandes *Buthuan* and *Calaghan*, where they tooke a Canoa of certayne of the inhabitantes: by whom beyng infourmed of the Ilandes of Molucca, they lefte theyr course towarde the Northeast, and folowed the Southeast, neare unto a Cape of the Ilande of Buthuan: they were advertised for certentie, that on the bankes of a certayne ryver, there dwelt men overgrowen with heare, and of hygh stature.

"Folowyng still theyr course by the Southeast, and passyng by many small Ilandes, they came to the Ilandes of

[1] *Sulu.*
[2] *Mindanao.*

Molucca, the sixte day of November, and the XXVII. moneth after their departure out of Spayne. . . .

"The eyght day of November, in the yeere 1521, before the rysing of the sunne, they entered into the porte of the Ilande of *Tidore*, beyng one of the chiefe Ilandes of *Molucca*. . . ."

Names on the map:

1. BĒGALLA = BENGAL
2. AMAC̄A = ARAKAM
3. PEGUU = PEGU
4. TANACERIN = TENASSERIN
5. SIAM = SIAM
6. OTOMAM = KLONG-DOANG (?) OR UJONG SALANG (?)
7. QUEDAA = KEDAH
8. MALACA = MALACCA
9. CAMATRA = SUMATRA
10. BINTAM = BINTANG
11. CUNDA = SUNDA
12. A JAAOA MAIOR = JAVA
13. JAAOA MENOR = SUNDA ISLANDS, SIMBAWA, SUMBA, FLORES, ETC.

14. BORNEO = BORNEO
15. TIMOR = TIMOR
16. CERAM = CERAM
17. BĪDA = BANDA
18. PAPUAAS = PAPUA
19. ABAROCHINA =
20. SĀ JOAN = JOANNES IS. PELEW GROUP
21. MALUCO = MOLUCCA
22. TIDORE = TIDORE
23. TERNATE = TERNATE
24. ARCIPELAGO DE FA L'AZARO = MINDANAO
25. CUBO A Q' MATARĀ HO MAGALHN̄ES = CEBU
26. XXX DE LEEQUEA =
27. RIO DE CĀTAM A CHINA = CANTON

The chart is on a roll of vellum, 22 x 14 inches. It is of the usual type of early sixteenth century sea-charts, the direction lines being of red, black, and green. The mainland, Sumatra, Java, etc., were well known to the Portuguese at the time, and were no doubt copied from a Portuguese chart.

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